

BOOK REVIEWS

MORE ABOUT PSYCHIATRY. By Carl Binger, M.D. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 1949. \$4.00.

The author of this book is associate professor of clinical psychiatry at Cornell University Medical College. A previous volume of his, "The Doctor's Job," won the Norton Medical Award in 1945.

The book is made up of a series of lectures and articles which have been published previously. It is, therefore, a collection of independent essays. The chapters, however, fit in together fairly well, the first four covering problems of psychosomatic medicine followed by a discussion of psychiatric problems and mental health.

The book is designed primarily for popular reading, although the general medical profession will find considerable useful information in it. It is the type of book which a doctor can recommend to a patient who wishes some information along these lines. The chapter on psychoanalysis is a rather good presentation of this subject for those with no knowledge of the subject.

This book, therefore, can be recommended as a good book for popular reading for those who wish further information about psychosomatic medicine and psychiatry.

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QUESTIONS, MEDICAL STATE BOARD, AND ANSWERS. By R. Max Goepf, M.D., Formerly Professor of Clinical Medicine, and Harrison F. Flippin, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, both of Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania. Eighth Edition. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1950. \$7.50.

The eighth edition of this old reliable comes after an elapsed period of 11 years since the last edition. It shows evidence of revamping and having been brought up to date in all chapters. A new chapter on psychiatry has been added.

The collaboration of Dr. Harrison F. Flippin, associate professor of medicine, Graduate School of the University of Pennsylvania, has been obtained, along with a staff of qualified editorial consultants.

The subject matter covered is necessarily broad but is done well and adequately. The use of such a volume is admittedly limited but the book accomplishes its purpose very well indeed.

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THE YELLOW EMPEROR'S CLASSIC OF INTERNAL MEDICINE—Chapters 1-34. Translated from the Chinese with an Introductory Study by Ilza Veith, M.A., Ph.D., Lecturer in the History of Medicine, The University of Chicago. The William and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$5.00.

How the venerable ancients reached a ripe old age was described by Ch'i Po, physician to the Yellow Emperor, Huang Ti, more than 4,000 years ago: "In ancient times . . . people . . . understood Tao (and) patterned themselves upon the Yin and the Yang and they lived in harmony with the arts of divination.

"There was temperance in eating and drinking. Their hours of rising and retiring were regular and not disorderly and wild. By these means the ancients kept their bodies united with their souls, so as to fulfill their allotted span completely, measuring unto a hundred years before they passed away."

This, briefly, summarizes much of the medical philosophy expounded throughout the Nei Ching, the Yellow Emperor's Classic of Internal Medicine. And this is the basis of Chinese medicine as it has been practiced through the ages to the present time.

It becomes obvious, immediately, that Chinese medicine is not *scientific* as the Occidental understands the term.

It recognizes no accurate anatomy. The chief method of diagnosis is the examination of the pulse. The two methods of healing are the often extremely painful acupuncture and moxibustion. On the other hand, Chinese medicine seeks to prevent illness by setting up a rational system of living. This system depends upon the understanding of Tao, the Right Way. It depends upon acting in accordance with Yin and Yang, the two great principles in nature. And it depends upon the comprehension and practice of numerology. The Nei Ching is the basic textbook of this system. Started perhaps 5,000 years ago, it is a body of folk literature that has grown with time.

In producing this English edition of the Nei Ching, Ilza Veith has performed a difficult feat with distinction. The actual translation takes up only two-thirds of the book. The remainder includes a comprehensive introduction and background explanation of the text. These, along with considerable appendices, help give the reader a basis of understanding for the text proper.

While the reader will not increase his technical knowledge with the Nei Ching, he will find in it rich food for philosophical thought along with some fascinating reading. The publishers have done a fine job of printing on parchment-like paper and have bound the book appropriately in yellow and black.

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STEDMAN'S MEDICAL DICTIONARY—Seventeenth Revised Edition. Edited by Norman Burke Taylor, M.D., The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Maryland, 1949. \$8.50.

The 17th edition of this scholarly work carries on in the tradition of its predecessors. It is, with certain reservations, an excellent reference on the definitions of medical terms. In order to get the most out of the body of the dictionary, the reader needs to be familiar with some of the appendices, particularly those on medical etymology and the keys to pronunciation and abbreviations.

The reviewer disagrees with the "ivory tower" attitude of the editors in regard to the omission and deletion of trade names. A medical dictionary, by its very nature, must be a complete book of information. The student must be able to find in it anything he needs pertaining to medical words. Whether one approves or disapproves of pharmaceutical and other trade names, they are with us and their existence may as well be acknowledged. Indeed, if the dictionary is not the right book to identify them, what is? (It is noted that the editors have made certain exceptions for trade names which have been accepted in general literature, e.g., adrenalin. Why not include all such words in a separate section?)

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DISEASES OF THE AORTA—Diagnosis and Treatment. By Nathaniel E. Reich, M.D., Associate in Medicine, Long Island College of Medicine. The Macmillan Company, New York, 1949. \$7.50.

This is a remarkably complete book for its size and discusses diseases of the aorta from the embryologic, clinical, and radiologic aspects. Each abnormality is clearly illustrated with line drawings and with angiocardiograms. The diagnosis of each lesion is tabulated in simple fashion for ease of reference.

The author has several unusual chapters on diagnostic procedures not requiring radiologic equipment, as well as a chapter discussing angiocardiography, kymography, abdominal arteriography, electrokymography and cardiac catheterization. There is a short chapter on antibiotics and one on